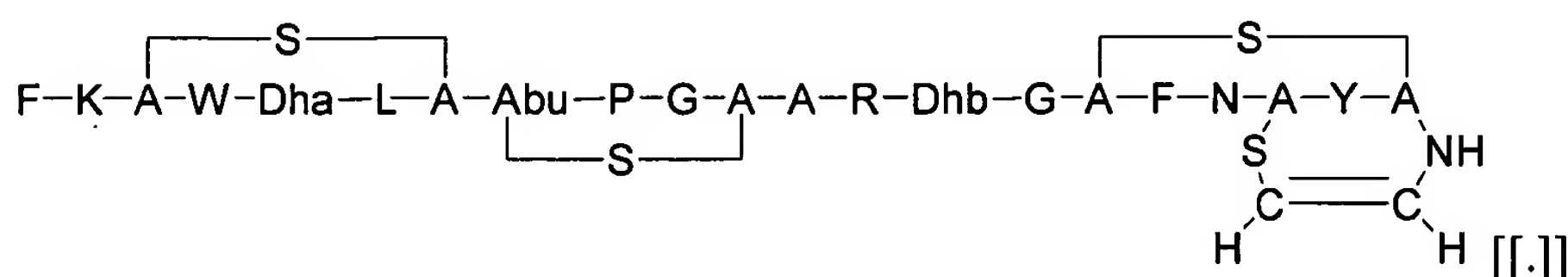


## IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An isolated lantibiotic comprising SEQ ID NO:6 ~~or a biologically functional variant thereof.~~
2. (Currently Amended) An isolated lantibiotic comprising the following structure:



SEQ ID NO:6.

3. (Withdrawn) An isolated pre-lantibiotic comprising SEQ ID NO:12 or a biologically functional variant thereof.
4. (Currently Amended) The isolated lantibiotic of claim 1, wherein the ~~biologically functional variant~~ lantibiotic comprises ~~at least one or two~~ conservative amino acid ~~substitution~~ substitutions.
5. (Currently Amended) The isolated lantibiotic of claim [[4]] 1, wherein ~~the~~ a conservative amino acid substitution occurs at amino acid position 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 13, ~~19~~ or combinations thereof.
6. (Currently Amended) The isolated lantibiotic of claim [[4]] 1, wherein a conservative amino acid substitution occurs at amino acid number 13, and comprises a Lys in place of an Arg (SEQ ID NO:7).
7. (Currently Amended) The isolated lantibiotic of claim [[4]] 1, wherein a conservative amino acid substitution occurs at amino acid number 19 and comprises a Dha in place of an Ala (SEQ ID NO:8).

8. (Currently Amended) The isolated lantibiotic of claim [[4]], 1 wherein a conservative substitution occurs at amino acid number 6 and comprises a Phe in place of a Leu (SEQ ID NO:9).
9. (Canceled)
10. (Currently Amended) The isolated lantibiotic of claim 1, wherein the ~~biologically-functional-variant~~ lantibiotic comprises:
  - (a) an amino acid substitution at amino acid number 6, which comprises a Phe in place of a Leu; and
  - (b) an amino acid substitution at amino acid number 13, which comprises a Lys in place of an Arg;which is shown in SEQ ID NO:11.
11. (Original) A detriprice comprising the isolated lantibiotic of claim 1 and a carrier or excipient.
12. (Original) A bacteriocidal or bacteriostatic composition comprising an effective amount of the lantibiotic of claim 1 and a carrier or excipient.
13. (Canceled)
14. (Original) A bacteriocidal or bacteriostatic composition comprising an effective amount of the lantibiotic of claim 10 and a carrier or excipient.
15. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the lantibiotic of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or excipient.
16. (Canceled)
17. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the lantibiotic of claim 10 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or excipient.
18. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 15, wherein the lantibiotic is active against a Gram positive bacteria.
19. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 18, wherein the Gram positive bacteria is selected from the group consisting of *Actinomyces*, *Bacillus*, *Clostridium*, *Corynebacterium*, *Enterococcus*, *Listeria*, *Lactobacillus*, *Mycobacterium*, *Propionobacteria*, *Staphylococci*, and *Streptococci*.
20. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 18, wherein the Gram positive bacteria is selected from the group consisting of *Corynebacterium*

*diphtheriae*, *Propionobacterium acnes*, *Listeria monocytogenes*, *Bacillus anthracis*, and *Mycobacterium phlei*.

21. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 18, wherein the lantibiotic is active against a Gram negative bacteria.
22. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 18, wherein the Gram negative bacteria is selected from the group consisting of *Flavobacterium*, *Actinobacillus*, *Enterobacter*, and *Neisseria*.
23. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a bacteriostatic or bacteriocidal amount of the lantibiotic of claim 1 and a carrier or excipient.
24. (Canceled)
25. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a bacteriostatic or bacteriocidal amount of the lantibiotic of claim 10 and a carrier or excipient.
26. (Withdrawn) A method of controlling the growth of bacteria in an animal comprising administering to the animal a composition comprising the lantibiotic of claim 1, whereby growth is controlled.
27. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 26, wherein the animal is a human.
28. (Withdrawn) A method of treating or ameliorating a bacterial infection in an animal comprising administering to the animal a composition comprising the lantibiotic of claim 1, whereby the infection is treated or ameliorated.
29. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 28, wherein the animal is a human.
30. (Withdrawn) A method for controlling bacterial growth in or on an object comprising applying the lantibiotic of claim 1 to the object, whereby bacterial growth is controlled.
31. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 30, wherein the object is food.
32. (New) The isolated lantibiotic of claim 1, wherein a conservative amino acid substitution occurs at amino acid position 1, 2, 4, 5, 13, 19 or combinations thereof.
33. (New) The isolated lantibiotic of claim 1, wherein a conservative amino acid substitution occurs at amino acid position 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 19 or combinations thereof.

34. (New) The isolated lantibiotic of claim 1, wherein a conservative amino acid substitution occurs at amino acid position 1, 2, 4, 5, 13, or combinations thereof.
35. (New) The isolated lantibiotic of claim 1, wherein a conservative amino acid substitution occurs at amino acid position 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, or combinations thereof.
36. (New) The isolated lantibiotic of claim 1, wherein a conservative amino acid substitution occurs at amino acid position 1, 2, 4, 5, 19, or combinations thereof.